

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel, comprising:
a core; and

a surface material covering the core, the surface material comprising a plurality of ligneous plates adhered together by adhesive sheets and a decorative material located outward of the ligneous plates ~~a plurality of ligneous plates adhered together by adhesive sheets and a decorative material located outward of the ligneous plates~~, the adhesive sheets comprising a non-woven base material in which a moisture resistant adhesive resin is permeated.

5. (Currently Amended) The steering wheel of claim 4, further including an additional adhesive sheet located between the ligneous plates and the decorative material for adhering the decorative material to the ligneous plates, the additional adhesive sheet also comprising a non-woven base material in which the ~~the~~ moisture resistant adhesive resin is permeated.

6. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the shape of the ligneous plates is a flat planar shape.

7. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the ligneous plates, adhesive sheets and decorative material are laminated together.

8. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the core and surface material are integrally formed with one another.

9. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the adhesive sheets further comprise a Japanese paper.

10. (Currently Amended) The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the adhesive resin is chosen from the group consisting of melamine resins, phenol resins, diallyl phthalate resins, epoxy resins, urea melamine resins, urea resins and urea melamine phenol resins.

11. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the amount of adhesive resin is in the range of 20 to 150 g/m² with respect to the area of the base material.

12. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the amount of adhesive resin is in the range of 60 to 100 g/m² with respect to the area of the base material.

13. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the base material comprises a non-woven fabric made of chemical fibers.

14. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the base material comprises non-woven polyesters or nylons.

15. (Previously Presented) The steering wheel of claim 4, wherein the surface material is formed of two halves connected together at their edges.